

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL TRUST GLAD LOCAL TRUST IS BUSTED—MIKE BOYLE NAILED

The Commonwealth Edison Co., the Westinghouse Co. and the General Electric corporation got their Chicago market widened today when a jury in federal Judge Humphrey's court brought in a verdict of "guilty" for ten small capitalists and four labor union officials.

The ten small capitalists are the heads of the Chicago Switchboard ass'n and were in conspiracy with the four labor men to shut out from Chicago territory electrical construction all appliances not union made.

The verdict today is the final action by which the conspiracy is broken and the way made clear for the non-union electrical appliances of the Commonwealth Edison, Westinghouse, and General Electric to be sold and installed without interference from the electrical workers' union. These are the guilty:

Michael J. ("Umbrella Mike") Boyle, former business agent of Local No. 134, Electrical Workers' union.

Raymond Cleary, assistant to Boyle.

C. L. Hampton, former business agent of the same local.

Frank A. Lundmark, former business agent of Local No. 713.

The individual manufacturers are: John Cuthbert, Cuthbert Electrical and Manufacturing Co.

Charles Kreider, Kohler Bros.

Warren E. Ripple, J. Lang Electric Co.

Otis B. Duncan, same company.

Julian J. Neilson, States Electric Co.

James Obermiller, same company.

G. W. Berthold, Electric Apparatus Co.

They are subject to fines of \$3,000 each and one year imprisonment or both.

The defendant corporations are: The Cuthbert Electrical and Manufacturing Co., Henry Newgard & Co.,

the J. Lang Electric Co., the States Electric Co., and the Electric Apparatus Co.

"The impression has gone out that the prosecution was aimed only at the labor grafters involved in this case," said U. S. Ass't Dist Att'y Albert Hopkins. "That is wrong. Both labor men and electrical contractors have been convicted of conspiracy to boycott and establish a monopoly in restraint of trade and in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

"If it had been the Commonwealth Edison Co. or the Westinghouse or the General Electric in a similar conspiracy we would have taken the same course. The verdict of guilty involves both forces of capital as well as labor."

The boycott was organized in April, 1911, when the contractors and labor men came to sign new agreements. Contractors said they couldn't meet the new wage increase asked by the labor men unless some way could be found to close the Chicago market to all switch boards and panels that didn't have the union brand.

Mike Boyle's conviction is the sensation of the day. He has been a dominating figure in the electrical workers' union and though often accused of unfair methods today is the first time his business connections, his organization and his influence failed to get him an acquittal. His personal real estate holdings are valued at \$300,000 which is some handy bunch of property to earn as a labor business agent or in real estate speculation.

The Chicago Telephone Co. gave its assistance to the big electrical corporations in getting Boyle. Horace F. Hill, vice-president Chi. Tel. Co., testified he slipped a cool \$20,000 cash to Boyle for keeping peace while the phone company put up its new building.